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## **News Release**

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### **Philadelphia man pleads guilty to arranging fraudulent marriages**

A 31-year-old Philadelphia, Penn., man pleaded guilty today in federal court in connection with arranging fraudulent marriages between United States citizens and Chinese nationals.

Le Guo Wu pleaded before U.S. District Court Judge Paul Magnuson in St. Paul to one count of conspiracy to profit financially from arranging, facilitating and participating in fraudulent marriages.

"We will not allow the exploitation of America's immigration system for profit," said Claude Arnold, special agent in charge of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Investigations in Bloomington. "Our legal immigration system must have integrity, not only to ensure fairness for those who immigrate legally, but also to protect national security."

According to the plea agreement, Wu organized a coordinated effort to arrange marriages between Chinese and U.S. citizens for the purpose of evading U.S. immigration laws. Wu conspired to commit marriage fraud for several purposes including profiting financially from the arranged marriages; facilitating the fraudulent entry of Chinese aliens into the U.S.; and facilitating the fraudulent acquisition by Chinese aliens of lawful permanent residency to permit continued presence of Chinese aliens in the U.S.

Wu recruited dozens of U.S. citizens in multiple states to participate in the conspiracy beginning no later than 2004 and continuing to October 2007. Wu assisted the citizens in filling out and filing petitions and other relevant documents and visa applications in connection with the fraudulent entry of the aliens into the U.S. He also arranged travel to China by citizens for the purpose of documenting the purported relationships between them, and compensated the citizens for their participation in the conspiracy.

If convicted, Wu faces a potential maximum penalty of five years in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge, and a sentencing date has not been scheduled.

This case is the result of an investigation by ICE. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Genrich.